IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

1. (Currently Amended) An automated contract engaging apparatus on which a group of customers being a first party and having common personal data except at least name engages a single collective contract or a plurality of individual contracts with a second party, said apparatus comprising:

a display;

a display controller for controlling said display so as to show on its screen a primary input screen image, through which the personal data of a representative customer of the group is to be input as first registration data, and an auxiliary input screen image, through which at least the name of each of the remaining customers of the group is to be input as second registration data ~~via an input of the display controller common to all customers~~;

a contract processor for processing and executing the single collective contract or the individual contracts with respect to the plural customers based on said first registration data input through said primary input screen image and said second registration data input through said auxiliary input screen image; ~~and~~

an input assisting section for assisting in inputting the personal data of the remaining customers of the group using part of said first registration data which part is common to the group; and

a family name button operable to be selected when a family name of the remaining customers is a same as that of the representative customer,

wherein said input assisting section assists in inputting a family name of the representative customer, as the personal data of the remaining customers, upon selection of said family name button.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) An automated contract engaging apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a screen image switch for instructing said display controller so as to switch screen

images on the screen of said display from said primary input screen image to said auxiliary input screen image.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Original) An automated contract engaging apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a screen image switch for instructing said display controller so as to switch screen images on the screen of said display from said primary input screen image to said auxiliary input screen image.

6. (Currently Amended) An automated contract engaging apparatus according to claim 4$\underline{1}$, wherein the common personal data of said first registration data to be input as part of the personal data of the remaining customers is a family name of the representative customer if the group is a family.

7. (Currently Amended) An automated contract engaging apparatus according to claim 4$\underline{1}$, further comprising a screen image switch for instructing said display controller so as to switch screen images on the screen of said display from said primary input screen image to said auxiliary input screen image.

8. (Original) An automated contract engaging apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising a screen image switch for instructing said display controller so as to switch screen images on the screen of said display from said primary input screen image to said auxiliary input screen image.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) An automated contract engaging method in which a group of customers being a first party and having common personal data except at least name engages a single collective contract or a plurality of individual contracts with a second party on an automated contract engaging apparatus including a display, said method comprising:

inputting the personal data of a representative customer of the group as first registration data;

inputting at least the name of each of the remaining customers of the group as second registration data ~~via an input of the display controller common to all customers~~;

processing and executing the single collective contract or the individual contracts with respect to the plural customers based on said first registration data input in the inputting the personal data step and said second registration data input in the inputting at least the name step; ~~and~~

inputting the common personal data of the remaining customers of the group using part of said first registration data which part is common to the group; and

selecting a family name button when a family name of the remaining customers is a same as that of the representative customer,

wherein the inputting a family name of the representative customer, as the personal data of the remaining customers, upon selection of the family name button.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) An automated contract engaging method according to claim 11, wherein

said first registration data is input through a primary input screen image shown on the display, in the inputting the personal data step; and

said second registration data is input through an auxiliary input screen image shown on the screen of the display, in the inputting at least the name step .

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) An automated contract engaging method according to claim 11, wherein

said first registration data is input through a primary input screen image shown on the display, in the inputting the personal data step ; and

said second registration data is input through an auxiliary input screen image shown on the screen of the display, in the inputting at least the name step .

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16. (Previously Presented) An automated contract engaging method according to claim 13, further comprising: switching screen images on the screen of the display from said primary input screen image to said auxiliary input screen image in response to the instructions of a screen image switch associated with the display.

17. (Currently Amended) An automated contract engaging method according to claim ~~14~~11, wherein the common personal data of said first registration data to be input as part of the personal data of the remaining customers is a family name of the representative customer if the group is a family.

18. (Currently Amended) An automated contract engaging method according to claim ~~14~~11, wherein

said first registration data is input through a primary input screen image shown on the display, in the inputting the personal data step; and

said second registration data is input through an auxiliary input screen image shown on the screen of the display, in the inputting at least the name step.

19. (Previously Presented) An automated contract engaging method according to claim 15, further comprising: switching screen images on the screen of the display from said primary input screen image to said auxiliary input screen image in response to the instructions of a screen image switch associated with the display.

20. (Previously Presented) An automated contract engaging method according to claim 17, wherein

said first registration data is input through a primary input screen image shown on the display, in the inputting the personal data step; and

said second registration data is input through an auxiliary input screen image shown on the screen of the display, in the inputting at least the name step.

21. (Previously Presented) An automated contract engaging method according to claim 18, further comprising: switching screen images on the screen of the display from said primary input screen image to said auxiliary input screen image in response to the instructions of a screen image switch associated with the display.

22. (Previously Presented) An automated contract engaging method according to claim 20, further comprising: switching screen images on the screen of the display from said primary input screen image to said auxiliary input screen image in response to the instructions of a screen image switch associated with the display.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable recording medium which records an automated contract engaging program for instructing a computer to function as internal or external part of an automated contract engaging apparatus which has a display and on which a group of customers being a first party and having common personal data except at least name engages a single collective contract or a plurality of individual contracts with a second party, wherein said program instructs the computer to function as the following:

a display controller for controlling the display so as to show on its screen a primary input screen image, through which the personal data of a representative customer of the group is to be input as first registration data, and an auxiliary input screen image, through which at least the name of each of the remaining customers of the group is to be input as second registration data via an input of the display controller common to all customers;

a contract processor for processing and executing the single collective contract or the individual contracts with respect to the plural customers based on said first registration data input through said primary input screen image and said second registration data input through said auxiliary input screen image; and

an input assisting section for assisting in inputting the common personal data of the remaining customers of the group using part of said first registration data which part is common to the group; and

a family name button operable to be selected when a family name of the remaining customers is a same as that of the representative customer,

wherein said input assisting section assists in inputting a family name of the representative customer, as the personal data of the remaining customers, upon selection of said family name button.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable recording medium according to claim 26, wherein said display controller controls the display so as to switch screen images on the screen of the display from said primary input screen image to said auxiliary input screen image in response to the instructions of the screen image switch.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable recording medium according to claim 26, wherein said display controller controls the display so as to switch screen images on the screen of the display from said primary input screen image to said auxiliary input screen image in response to the instructions of the screen image switch.

31. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable recording medium according to claim 2926, wherein the common personal data of said first registration data to be input as part of the personal data of the remaining customers is a family name of the representative customer if the group is a family.

32. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable recording medium according to claim 2926, wherein said display controller controls the display so as to switch screen images on the screen of the display from said primary input screen image to said auxiliary input screen image in response to the instructions of the screen image switch.

33. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable recording medium according to claim 31, wherein said display controller controls the display so as to switch screen images on the screen of the display from said primary input screen image to said auxiliary input screen image in response to the instructions of the screen image switch.

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Currently Amended) A method of engaging a group of customers having common personal data in a single collective contract or a plurality of individual contracts with another party, the method comprising:

deriving registration data which part is common to the group of customers, from registration data of a first customer;

merging the derived registration data with at least a name inputted for each remaining customers of the group via an input of the display controller common to all customers;

selecting a family name button when a family name of the remaining customer of the group is a same as that of the first customer and inputting the family name of the first customer as personal data of the remaining customers upon selection of the family name button; and

processing and executing the single collective contract or the individual contracts with respect to the group of customers based on the registration data of the first customer and the merged registration data of the remaining customers of the group.

37. (Currently Amended) A method of engaging a group of customers having common personal data in a single collective contract or a plurality of individual contracts with another party, the method comprising:

creating a group registration data from registration data of a first customer that is common to a group, the registration data of the first customer inputted via a display device;

inputting via the same display device the at least name of other members of the group;

selecting a family name button when a family name of the remaining customers of the group is a same as that of the first customer and inputting the family name of the first customer as personal data of the remaining customers upon selection of the family name button; and

executing the single collective contract or the individual contracts with respect to the group of customers based on the registration data of the first customer and the merged registration data of the remaining customers of the group.

38. (New) A method, comprising:

inputting personal data of a first customer of a group as first registration information and at least a first name of each remaining customer of the group as second registration information;

selecting a family name button to input the personal data of the remaining customers, which is common to the personal data of the first customer, as part of the second registration information; and

processing and executing a single collective contract or individual contracts with respect to the first customer and the remaining customers based on the first registration data and the second registration data, respectively.